

House Republican Press Release

May 25, 2005
Press Office: 860-240-8700

House Passes Workers' Comp Benefits for National Guard Soldiers



Adinolfi Introduces Bill Supporting Soldiers Called out By Governor

HARTFORD - State Representative Al Adinolfi (R-Cheshire), a member of the legislature's new Veterans' Affairs Committee, has introduced and co-sponsored legislation that provides workers' compensation benefits for members of the Connecticut National Guard called to active duty by the Governor. The bill passed the House of Representatives today.

Under current law, state armed forces personnel, including Connecticut National Guard members, injured while on duty under state orders can file a claim in the Military Department under the authority of the adjutant general. When injured while they are on federal orders, Connecticut Guardsmen would receive federal compensation.

This bill repeals the Military Department's authority to consider claims, make or deny compensation awards, and set compensation amounts. It places state armed forces personnel under the preferred state workers' compensation system when they are on state orders.

By law, "state armed forces personnel" is defined as the Connecticut National Guard, the state militia including the Marine Corps branch, and the organized militia, which includes the Governor's Foot Guards and the Governor's Horse Guards.

The bill requires that any member of the state armed forces who is under orders and is injured or contracts a disease when on duty or assembled for duty must receive benefits in accordance with the state Workers' Compensation Act. It applies to any injury or disease that causes temporary or permanent disability that prevents the person from performing his usual duties or occupation.

"This bill will provide a greater assurance to members of the Connecticut National Guard, including its organized state militia units that if they are injured in the discharge of duties ordered by the Governor, they will be covered under the state worker's compensation system," said **Representative Adinolfi**.

The bill will now head to the state Senate for action there.